

13525 Evening Song Lane
Reno, NV 89511
April 18, 2000

5900 '00 MAY -9 P1:49
Janet Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857.
(Fax: 301-443-1863)

Dear Dr. Henney:

It is my understanding that Procter & Gamble and Frito-Lay are pressuring the FDA to eliminate the warning notice on the products containing olestra (Olean). I am, unfortunately, one of the individuals who bought a bag of WOW potato chips and suffered a severe reaction to the product. At first I did not realize that it was the olestra that had evoked the response from my digestive system which I experienced. Without boring you with all the details, suffice it to say that I had extreme cramping to the point that I had to leave work. I had not had such pain and discomfort since a trip I took to Acapulco, Mexico, and drank the local water.

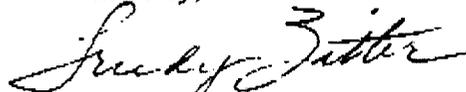
I urge the government to listen to the pleas of others like myself who experienced a horrible reaction to the product. Rather than eliminating the warning label as P&G and Frito-Lay would like, I strongly urge you to consider making the warning more prominent and explicit on the FRONT rather than the back of the package.

As I indicated earlier, I had no idea what had caused my pain and discomfort. Someone suggested it could have been the olestra. When I examined the back of the bag of chips I noticed the small, and rather inconsequential, warning. I believe that others who reacted to this ingredient, as I did, would have taken special precaution to "taste test" products with olestra had there been a more prominent and explicit warning notice. Undoubtedly there are many individuals who are not affected by the product, but for those of us who are sensitive to it, a warning is definitely in order.

Please, do the public a favor and make sure that the warning notice is not eliminated and that it becomes very obvious and explicit in terms of what may be experienced by the consumer. With all the efforts in today's society to protect individuals from bodily harm (i.e., safety seals on everything from vitamins to bottles of ketchup), don't let products containing olestra be presented to the uninformed public without fair warning. I have repeated my experiences to as many individuals as I possibly can in the hopes that they will, likewise, spread the word. It shouldn't have to come down to the public being responsible to do the FDA's job.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Trudy Zitter

cc: Center for Science in the Public Interest
Attn: Geoffrey Barron
Gbarron@cspinet.org

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